PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Laurent Schaller et al. Examiner: Woo, Julian W.

Serial No.: 10/653,027 Group Art Unit: 3773

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Title: TISSUE CONNECTOR APPARATUS AND METHODS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 14, 2009. A one-month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith via the EFS-web to move the deadline for response to February 16, 2010 (February 14, 2010 fell on a Sunday and February 15, 2010 fell on a Federal Holiday).

A Listing of the Claims begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on Page 8 of this paper.